

### REMARKS

Examiner Sayala is thanked for her careful consideration of the present patent application.

The double patenting rejection is mooted by the amendments hereto. All of the amendments are supported in the specification, and no new matter has been added.

As to the art rejections, it is noted that these are improper in light of the allowance of claim 1 in the parent application (now issued as U.S. Patent 6,746,698). The cited references were of record in the parent application, and claim 1 of that application is presumed valid over those references. In any event, the cited references do not disclose or suggest the subject matter claimed in the present application.

GB 1600162 is not seen to disclose a hemicellulose binder in particles of an animal feed. As disclosed therein, sewage sludge evidently is treated to extract certain products, but it is unclear that these products contain hemicellulose. Hemicellulose is a soluble material, and the "granules" prepared in accordance with the procedure set forth in this document are obtained after aqueous filtration (the solvent is an alcoholic mixture but the material is wet prior to filtration). Moreover, the amount of hemicellulose in the sludge starting material is very small. Accordingly, it is unclear whether the "granules" said to be prepared thereby contain any hemicellulose. In any case, there is no teaching or suggestion of hemicellulose in an amount affected to enhance intraparticle cohesion.

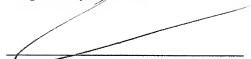
Winowski is likewise deficient. Again, the reference is not seen to disclose particles with a hemicellulose binder in an amount sufficient to improve intraparticle cohesion, and otherwise is not seen to disclose the subject matter of the present application or of the parent '698 patent. The premise of Winkowski appears to be that binders are required for animal feed particles, and that MgO can so function while functioning as a lubricant. With specific respect to claim 1 of the present application, Winkowski further fails to meet the 15% limitation.

Finally, Gao and Donovan do not support a rejection under section 103 of claim 1 or of any claim of the parent patent. The references do not appear to be combinable. Neither reference meets the 15% limitation of claim 1, and likewise the references do not teach corn hull hemicellulose.

Allowance is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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